

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
U.S. Serial No.: 09/744,176

- IX. Claim 18, drawn to an in vitro immunoassay for detecting the presence of HCV glycoprotein E2.
- X. Claims 20-21, drawn to a composition for treating or preventing HCV infection.

Applicants elect with traverse Group I. As to the sequences relating to a V_h and a V_L sequence SEQ ID NOs:2 and 4 are elected with traverse.

SEQ ID NO:6 is a variant of SEQ ID NO:2, differing by just one amino acid. Thus, it is believed no undue burden is imposed by having all three sequences searched.

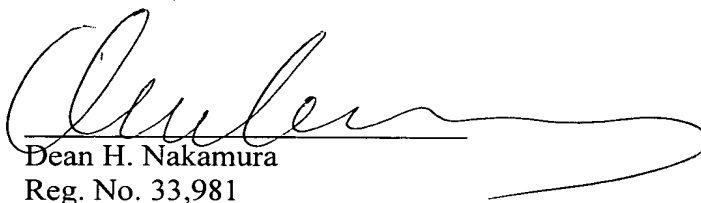
If the Examiner remains unconvinced in removing the Election of Species requirement, should the elected species, SEQ ID NOs:2 and 4, be found patentable, then examination of SEQ ID NO:6 is required.

Group I is directed to antibody, which can be used as a pharmaceutical as provided in Group V, Claim 11, and in Group X, Claim 20 and 21, as well as in Group VII, Claims 13 and 15.

Thus, it is respectfully requested that the restriction as to those groups be collapsed as all of that subject matter can be dealt with in a single search, without undue burden on the Examiner.

Early examination and notification of allowance are solicited earnestly.

Respectfully submitted,


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Dated: 26 August 2002